

Message Text

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ACTION INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3682

S E C R E T ASUNCION 4323

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PA

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFO: PORTUGUESE MILITARY LEADERS

REF: STATE 222721

1. DCM BRIGGS (FORMER CONGEN LUANDA WITH PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS IN LISBON AND PORTUGUESE DESK WASHINGTON) PROVIDES FOLLOWING ON ADMIRAL ANTONIO ALVA ROSA COUTINHO.

2. ROSA COUTINHO IS VERY BRIGHT AND EXTREMELY LIBERAL IN POLITICAL OUTLOOK. HE CLAIMS TO BE ADMIRER OF US WHERE HE SAYS HE ONCE ATTENDED COURSE OF MILITARY STUDIES OFFERED UNDER MAP. CANNOT PERSONALLY CONFIRM WIDESPREAD REPORTS (IN LUANDA) THAT NOTWITHSTANDING HIS SURFACE FRIENDLINESS, HE IS A CONVINCED COMMUNIST.

3. FOLLOWING ROSA COUTINHO'S APPOINTMENT TO PORTUGUESE JUNTA IN APRIL, RELIABLE PORTUGUESE NAVY CONTACT IN LUANDA CHARACTERIZED HIM AS "SERIOUS JED VERY PROFESSIONAL" NAVAL OFFICER, AND MODERATE-LIBERUH

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IN POLITICS. IN CONTRAST, WHEN ROSA COUTINHO TOOK

OVER AS HEAD OF ANGOLAN JUNTA IN LATE JULY HE WAS
REGARDED BY CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS CIRCLES SOME SENIO
D
MILITARY OFFICERS AND ANGOLAN MODERATES AS HARD-CORE
COMMUNIST WHO ALLEGEDLY JOINED PCP IN YOUTH AND REMAINED
SECRET MEMBER THROUGHOUT AND IN SPITE OF SUCCESSFUL
NAVAL CAREER UNDER SALAZAR AND CAETANO.

4. WHATEVER ROSJ COUTINHO'S TRUE POLITICS, AT LEAST
THREE OF HIS IMMEDIATE FIVE-MAN TEAM IN ANGOLAN
JUNTA IN AUGUST WERE MODERATES AND IN VARYING
DEGREES PRO-AMERICAN, OR FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS:
PAF COL. ANTONIO CARDOSO; ARMY BRIG. ALTON D'VINGINTO
DE MAGALHAES; AND PN CAPT. LEONEL GOMES CARDOSO.

5. SUGGESTED INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY
ALSO WISH TO QUERY FORMER MEMBERS OF LISBON DAO:
CAPT. (USN) RODION CANTACUZENE, DEFENSE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AGENCY, DOD; CMDR. JOHN
ENYART (USN-RETKL
AND LC/C MARIO DISILVESTRO (USAF-RET), BOTH BELIEVED
TO RESIDE IN WASHINGTON AREA; COL. LEROY NIGRA
(USAF-RET) AND COL. JAMES JEFFRIES (USA-RET), BOTH
RESIDING IN LISBON AREA. ALSO RETIRED FSR THEODORE
A. XANTHAKY, LISBON, WHO WELL ACQUAINTED WITH COSUE
GOMES.
LANDAU

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